

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing application windows in an electronic device, the method comprising: opening (202) the application windows of at least two different application programs onto a display, **characterized by**
5 detecting (204) activation of a grip area for managing application windows on the display;
detecting (208) a change in the location of the activated grip area on the display, indicated by an input device; and
changing (210) the size of at least two application windows on the
10 basis of the change in the location of the grip area.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized by** showing (206) the grip area for managing application windows on the display.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized by** changing the sizes of the application windows during the change in the location of
15 the activated grip area.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized by** changing the sizes of the application windows such that the changed application windows cover as large a portion of the display as possible.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that the
20 method further comprises detecting selection of the application windows to be changed from among the opened application windows; and changing the size of the application windows to be changed only.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that the
25 method further comprises scaling the contents of the application windows in proportions to the changes in the sizes of the application windows.
7. A method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that in the method, detecting a change in the location of the grip area comprises: detecting a direction of motion of the grip area from a first location of the grip area to a second location of the grip area as well as the distance between the first
30 location and the second location, and changing the sizes of the application windows on the basis of the detected direction of motion and distance.
8. An electronic device comprising a processing unit (100) for controlling functions of the device, a display (102) connected to the processing unit for showing application windows, and an input device (104) for issuing control
35 commands, the processing unit being configured to open the application win-

dows of at least two different application programs onto the display, **characterized** in that the processing unit (100) is further configured to detect activation of a grip area for managing application windows on the display; detect a change in the location of the activated grip area on the display, indicated
5 by the input device; and change the size of at least two application windows on the basis of the change in the location of the grip area.

9. An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, **characterized** in that the processing unit (100) is configured to show the grip area for managing application windows on the display.

10 10. An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, **characterized** in that the processing unit (100) is configured to change the sizes of the application windows during the change in the location of the activated grip area.

15 11. An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, **characterized** in that the processing unit (100) is configured to change the sizes of the application windows such that the changed application windows cover as large a portion of the display as possible.

20 12. An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, **characterized** in that the processing unit (100) is configured to detect selection of the application windows to be changed from among the opened application windows; and change the size of the application windows to be changed only.

25 13. An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, **characterized** in that the processing unit (100) is configured to scale the contents of the application windows in proportions to the changes in the sizes of the application windows.

30 14. An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, **characterized** in that in detecting a change in the location of the grip area, the processing unit (100) is configured to detect a direction of motion of the grip area from a first location of the grip area to a second location of the grip area as well as the distance between the first location and the second location, and to change the sizes of the application windows on the basis of the detected direction of motion and distance.

35 15. A computer program product which encodes a computer process to manage application windows, the computer process comprising: opening the application windows of at least two different application programs onto a display, **characterized** by the computer process further comprising:

detecting activation of a grip area for managing application windows on the display;

detecting a change in the location of the activated grip area on the display, indicated by an input device; and

5 changing the size of at least two application windows on the basis of the change in the location of the grip area.

16. An electronic device comprising: processing means (100) for controlling functions of the device, means (102) for showing application windows, and input means (104) for issuing control commands, the processing
10 means opening the application windows of at least two different application programs onto a display, **characterized** in that the processing means detect activation of a grip area for managing application windows on the display, detect a change in the location of the activated grip area on the display, indicated by input means, and change the size of at least two application win-
15 dows on the basis of the change in the location of the grip area.